

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

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O R 122158Z MAY 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA IMMEDIATE
INFO AMCONSUL ADANA
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMCONSUL IZMIR
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USNATO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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ALSO FOR USEEC

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:

SUBJECT: TURKISH ARMS EMBARGO: REMARKS BY SECRETARY AND
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DEPT SPOKESMAN

1. FOLLOWING ARE Q'S AND A'S RE TURKISH ARMS EMBARGO NOON
BRIEFING MAY 12; AT STATE DEPARTMENT.

BEGIN TEXT:

Q: HODDING, WAS THERE ANY REACTION HERE TO THE VOTE ON

THE ARMS EMBARGO AGAINST TURKEY?

A: OBVIOUSLY WE ARE DISAPPOINTED BY THE COMMITTEE'S VOTE. WE REMAIN CONVINCED THAT OUR EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN PROGRAM IN ITS ENTIRETY REPRESENTS THE BEST WAY TO RESTORE CLOSE BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH GREECE AND TURKEY, TO STRENGTHEN NATO AND TO BREAK THE IMPASSE WHICH IS FRUSTRATING PROGRESS ON THE CYPRUS PROBLEM.

THE PROPOSAL TO LIFT THE EMBARGO ON TURKEY WILL BE RE-INTRODUCED ON THE SENATE FLOOR, AND WE HOPE AND EXPECT THAT YESTERDAY'S COMMITTEE VOTE WILL BE REVERSED.

WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT THE CONSEQUENCES OF FAILURE IN THIS UNDERTAKING WOULD BE HIGHLY UNDESIREABLE FOR ALL CONCERNED.

I WOULD NOTE, OF COURSE, THAT THERE WERE FOUR MEMBERS NOT PRESENT FOR THAT VOTE YESTERDAY. IT IS OUR FEELING THAT A SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF THEM WERE IN FAVOR OF LIFTING THE EMBARGO.

Q: WHAT CONSEQUENCES ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

A: I SIMPLY THINK THAT THE EFFECT ON THE RELATIONS -- WHAT I JUST LISTED -- IS THE REVERSE OF WHAT WE HOPED WOULD
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COME OUT OF THE TOTAL PROGRAM WE HAVE FOR EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN. THAT IS, I THINK, THAT IT, IN FACT, CONTINUES TO BE A FACTOR WHICH EXACERBATES RELATIONS IN THAT AREA AND WHICH HAS A NET EFFECT ON THE VIABILITY OF NATO'S EASTERN FLANK.

Q: ARE YOU STILL CONCERNED IF THE EMBARGO IS LIFTED IT WILL EXACERBATE RELATIONS WITH OTHER SIDE OF THAT WHOLE PROBLEM?

A: WE HOPE THAT OUR POSITION ON THIS, WHEN UNDERSTOOD FULLY, WOULD NOT HAVE THAT EFFECT. WE ARE COMMITTED TO GOOD RELATIONS AND IMPROVED RELATIONS WITH ALL THE PARTIES IN THAT REGION OF THE WORLD. WE ARE NOT TAKING POLICY STEPS DESIGNED, WE HOPE, TO EXACERBATE ANY RELATIONS, BUT, IN FACT, TO IMPROVE THEM.

Q: HODDING, HOW DO YOU EXPECT IT TO BE OVERTURNED ON THE FLOOR?

A: WE DO SO ON TWO COUNTS.

FIRST, BECAUSE OF THE EXPRESSIONS OF SUPPORT WE HAVE HAD FROM SENATORS WHO HAVE NOT HAD A CHANCE TO VOTE IN THE COMMITTEE.

SECOND, BECAUSE WE THINK A FULL PRESENTATION AND DEBATE ON THE ISSUES WILL BRING AROUND THOSE WHO ARE NOW UNDECIDED ON THE QUESTION AND THAT WHEN THE VOTE IS TAKEN WE WILL, IN FACT, BE ABLE TO PREVAIL.

Q: DO YOU HAVE ANY DATE FOR WHEN YOU WILL RE-INTRODUCE THIS, AND IS THIS DATE LINKED TO ANY OTHER FOREIGN POLICY DECISIONS?

A: NO. I DO NOT KNOW THE TIMING ON THAT. I DON'T BE-
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LIEVE THAT I HAVE A LEGISLATIVE CALENDAR ON THAT.

Q: DO YOU KNOW WHO IS GOING TO TAKE IT TO THE FLOOR?

THE LEADERSHIP OR AN INDIVIDUAL SENATOR?

A: THAT IS SOMETHING THAT TICKLES MY MEMORY, BUT I AM NOT SURE ENOUGH.

I WILL TAKE A GENERAL QUESTION ON THE SUBJECT OF TIMING AND THE PROCEDURE.

END TEXT.

2. AFTER SECRETARY'S APPEARANCE AT CLOSED SESSION OF HEARING OF AFRICAN AFFAIRS SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE MAY 12, HE ANSWERED FOLLOWING PRESS INQUIRIES REGARDING US ARMS EMBARGO AGAINST TURKEY.

BEGIN TEXT:

Q: MR. SECRETARY, WOULD YOU COMMENT ON THE TURKISH EMBARGO ISSUE. YESTERDAY THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE VOTED IN THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION FROM WHAT YOU WOULD HAVE PREFERRED.

A: THAT IS CORRECT.

Q: PLEASE COMMENT ON WHAT YOU THINK THE CHANCES ARE NOW OF THE CONGRESS LIFTING THE EMBARGO?

A: THE VOTE WAS 8 TO 4 YESTERDAY, I AM UNHAPPY WITH THAT RESULT. ON THE OTHER HAND, I DO NOT THINK THE RESULT IN
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COMMITTEE IS CONCLUSIVE.

I THINK THAT THE ULTIMATE DECISION IS GOING TO HAVE TO
COME ON THE FLOOR OF THE SENATE AND THE FLOOR OF THE HOUSE.
I BELIEVE THAT THE PROPOSALS WHICH WE HAVE MADE WITH RES-
PECT TO THE LIFTING OF THE EMBARGO ARE SOUND PROPOSALS.
I AM HOPEFUL THAT BY THE TIME THE ULTIMATE VOTE COMES IN
BOTH OF THE HOUSES THAT WE WILL HAVE THE VOTES TO CARRY
THE PROPOSAL FORWARD. BECAUSE IT IS VERY MUCH IN THE
INTEREST OF THE U.S. IS ALSO IN THE INTERESTS OF STRENGTH-
ENING THE SOUTHERN FLANK OF NATO AND WE WILL DO EVERYTHING
THAT WE CAN TO CONTINUE TO WORK WITH THE CONGRESS TO CON-
VINCE THEM THAT THIS IS THE RIGHT DECISION.

Q: MR. SECRETARY, I WONDER IF YOU WOULDN'T SAY WHAT THE
BASIS FOR YOUR HOPE IS?

A: WELL, WE . . . THE HOUSE VOTED THE OTHER WAY . . .
I THINK IT IS AN ISSUE THAT HAS TO BE DEBATED FULLY AND

WHEN IT HAS BEEN DEBATED FULLY I THINK THAT IT WILL BE
PASSED. END TEXT. VANCE

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